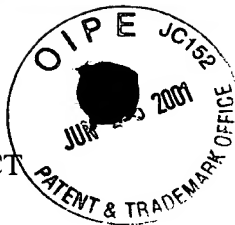


205490US0PCT



Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 JUN 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
WAYNE E. SHAW ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO: 09/821,453 :
FILED: APRIL 5, 2001 :
FOR: SORBENT MATERIAL FOR :
PETROLEUM/OILS OR FOR :
WATER-SOLUBLE POLLUTANTS :

4/A
C7
8/6/01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) Sorbent material according to Claim 1, characterized in that the oleophilic coating predominantly comprises, in particular essentially, silicone(s).

5. (Amended) Sorbent material according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said coating is provided in a quantity of about 0.01 to about 1.0%, in particular from 0.05 to 0.5% by weight of silicone(s) relative to the weight of the fibres.